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No agreement on Oswego area park-dump

Recent filling concerns Sundown Lane residents

By Paul Kelma

The Beacon-News

Residents along Sundown Lane and the Oswegoland Park District will return to court May 3 after the two sides could not reach an agreement Friday on why filling should be halted at a park-dump site south of Oswego.

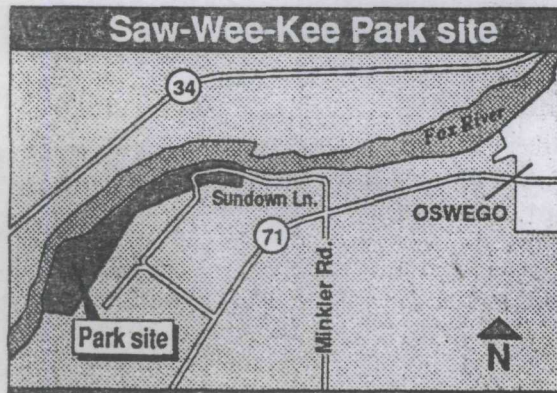
The park district's attorney, however, told district officials to halt any filling, covering or moving of any objects at Saw-Wee-Ke Park, where a group of residents say hazardous ma-

terials may be buried.

The residents had sought an injunction to halt dumping or removal of materials in the 150-acre park that surrounds their homes on the east bank of the Fox River. They said they want to await tests results from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and perhaps private tests they may have done, according to court statements by their attorney, Paul Lewis of Aurora.

The district's attorney, John Justin Wyeth of Naperville, agreed that earth moving, in or out, should be ceased pending the outcome of tests. He said, however, that the district could not agree to language in the proposed injunction order that indicated agreement that some of the materials were hazardous in nature.

The IEPA already has ordered the district to stop dumping, saying it violated open dumping laws by allowing the burial of refuse including plastic foam blocks, metal drums and construction concrete with metal reinforcement. The agency gave the district until May 27 to clean up debris that was visible during a February inspection.



Beacon-News graphic



Dump / A5

Neil Hambly, a Sundown Lane resident, holding for med
crouches on a carpet of glass while

Dump

from A1

The next court hearing is May 3 before Judge James Wilson.

The district also has been ordered to seek a permit for filling from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

District executive director Robert "Bert" Gray said both instructions will be met.

Residents Neil Hambly, of 7610 Sundown, and Wayne Hambly, of 6954 Sundown, declined comment after Friday's court appearance, on instruction from Lewis.

The residents have said they are concerned about recent filling along Sundown that was authorized by the district. They are

also concerned about an old local dump site that Gray said the district closed in the mid-1960s when it received the property from the Illinois Department of Conservation.

That older site contains such visible materials as 55-gallon drums, some filled with multi-colored plastic residue, tar roofing shingles, broken and unbro-

ken glass containers.

The residents say they want to ensure that their private well water is not endangered by leaching materials from the dump site, and that the park is safe for public use.

Gray said park areas intended for a boat ramp, parking and picnic area will be made safe before public use.